

□ 1913

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 440, H. Res. 1051, Congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend several votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 1242, Honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth; "yea" on final passage of my bill, H. Con. Res. 372, supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States, and "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 1051—Congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6041

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 6041.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4040, CON- SUMER PRODUCT SAFETY MOD- ERNIZATION ACT

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4040.

The form of my motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4040 be instructed to insist on the provisions contained in the House bill with regard to the definition of "children's product".

NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. Human Rights Council was formed to have open, lively debate on the basic human rights of all peoples. However, some Muslim nations have put a strong

arm on the council and prevented free discussions of practices that are advocated in the name of religion by a few Muslims. Those practices include female genital mutilation and so-called "honor killings," or murder, of women.

One would think that the mutilation and killing of women would be a front-burner topic with the Human Rights Council. But some Muslims have said this subject is taboo and the discussion of this religious practice and the religious practices of other faiths is off-limits.

So much for the basic human right of free speech.

Those that advocate the mutilation and honor killings of women in the name of religion should be proud of this doctrine of faith and be able to justify it before the U.N. Human Rights Council. But I guess not.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that in the history of humanity, more murders, tortures, and wars have been justified and done in the name of the world's numerous religions than any other reason or cause.

Reason enough in 2008 to discuss this practice of abusing women.

And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TORTURE UNDERMINES OUR VALUES AND MAKES US WEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, nothing has stained the honor of the United States in recent years like the use of torture against detainees, detainees in Iraq and detainees elsewhere. Torture goes against our Nation's most basic values, and it undermines the American people's reputation as a compassionate and committed people to human rights.

Torture is not only immoral; it has a practical damaging effect on our foreign policy. When America is involved in torture, we lose the moral authority that is our most powerful weapon in the fight against terrorism. How can we lead the world against terrorism when the world believes that we don't respect the rule of law ourselves?

That is why I want to call attention to a new report on torture that was issued last week by the group Physicians for Human Rights. This group assembled a team of doctors and psychologists to evaluate former detainees held in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay. The team found that the detainees were tortured, even though no charges were ever brought against them or any explanation ever given for their imprisonment.

The torture consisted of beatings, electric shocks, involuntary medication, shackling, and sexual humiliation. Other techniques were used, but they are far too awful for me to mention here. One Iraqi detainee who was held for a time in the notorious Abu Ghraib prison said he was subjected to psychological abuse as well as physical torture. He said that his captors threatened to rape his mother and his sisters.

Former Major General Anthony Taguba, who conducted the Army's investigation of the Abu Ghraib scandal in 2004, wrote a preface to the report. He said, "In order for these individuals to suffer the wanton cruelty to which they were subjected, a government policy was promulgated to the field whereby the Geneva Conventions and the Uniform Code of Military Justice were disregarded. The U.N. Convention Against Torture was indiscriminately ignored . . ."

He continued: "Through the experiences," he said, "of these men . . . we can see the full scope of the damage this illegal and unsound policy has inflicted, both on American institutions and our founding values."

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that there will be some people who will try to discredit this report by charging that it was prepared by a group determined to embarrass the administration. But if they don't believe this report, perhaps they will believe the reporting of the McClatchy newspapers, which conducted an 8-month investigation of the U.S. detention system created after 9/11. The McClatchy investigation found "that the United States imprisoned innocent men, subjected them to abuse, stripped them of their legal rights, and allowed Islamic militants to turn the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay into a school for jihad."

This House did the honorable thing a few months ago when it voted to stop the use of waterboarding and other illegal interrogation techniques. Forty-three retired generals and admirals supported that bill. Eighteen national security experts, including former Secretaries of State and national security advisers, supported it as well. But the President vetoed this bill, sending the world a message that America condones torture.

Torture doesn't work. It doesn't produce good information. It exposes our own troops to torture if they are captured. It creates enemies. In short, torture doesn't make us stronger; it makes us weaker.

Congress must recognize these facts and move to restore our Nation's good name. The best way to begin to do that is by redeploying our troops out of Iraq and then help the Iraqi people to rebuild their lives and their country. I know that this won't happen soon given last week's vote on funding for the occupation of Iraq. But sooner or later, Congress must act. Redeploying out of Iraq will help to heal the wounds of torture and right the wrongs.